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Identical letters dated 2 February 2016 from the Permanent Representative of Israel to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

I am writing to you with regard to the letter dated 21 December 2015 sent by the Permanent Representative of Lebanon to the Secretary-General and the Security Council (A/70/670-S/2015/1051).

That letter contains, once again, intentionally misleading accusations against Israel with regard to violations of Security Council resolution 1701 (2006). As with previous accusations alleged by the Permanent Representative of Lebanon, the factual record in many of the cited instances has been distorted, while other incidents as described do not constitute violations of resolution 1701 (2006).

I would also like to specifically clarify that since the mandate of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) does not include the delineation of the maritime boundary, all claims of violations of so-called maritime boundaries are beyond the scope of the UNIFIL mandate.

In order to set the record straight, please see Israel's detailed response to the claims alleged by Lebanon, which is contained in the annex to the present letter (see annex, sect.1).

As outlined in this letter, as well as in previous letters that I have sent, violations by Lebanon of resolution 1701 (2006) are daily occurrences and the armed presence of Hezbollah in southern Lebanon goes unchallenged by the Government of Lebanon. Despite their visibility and frequency, the vast majority of violations are consistently excluded from the reports of the Secretariat.

A statistical summary of the violations committed by Lebanon in the year 2015, totalling 2,347 violations, is contained in section 2 of the annex to this letter.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Danny **Danon**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the identical letters dated 2 February 2016 from the Permanent Representative of Israel to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

1. Response by Israel to the alleged accusations

Date	*Time*	*Alleged nature of violation*	*Response*
2 November 2015	1300	An Israel Defense Forces patrol conducted work in the Israeli side of the al-Khiyam area.	This incident does not constitute a violation of Security Council resolution 1701 (2006) or the Blue Line.
5 November 2015	1040	An Israel Defense Forces patrol in the Marun al-Ra's area (near point B51) apprehended the Lebanese civilian Ali al-Asi, who approached the technical fence. The civilian was released the same day at 1855 hours.	1. The Lebanese civilian crossed the technical fence and infiltrated Israel's territory, while violating Israel's sovereignty and the Blue Line and creating a serious potential for friction. 2. The aforementioned civilian was arrested by the Israel Defense Forces and was returned to Lebanon in coordination with the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL). The International Red Cross was also informed of the matter. 3. It should also be emphasized that the civilian infiltrated Israel's territory and was not, as was claimed by the Permanent Mission of Lebanon, in fact kidnapped. 4. The Israel Defense Forces cooperated with the UNIFIL investigation into the matter and allowed the UNIFIL investigation team to patrol the area of the incident.

Date	*Time*	*Alleged nature of violation*	*Response*
7 November 2015	1500	Seven Israel Defense Forces soldiers climbed on top of the technical fence opposite the Lebanese Army Kafr Killa position and photographed the position.	1. Israel Defense Forces soldiers came in contact with the technical fence located south of the Blue Line, but did not cross the fence. 2. It should be emphasized that the technical fence is not the relevant reference line for inquiry of whether a violation occurred. The only reference line is the Blue Line. 3. The Blue Line was not crossed; therefore, this incident does not qualify as a violation of Security Council resolution 1701 (2006) or the Blue Line.
	1810	An Israel Defense Forces patrol in Ghajar village directed a searchlight towards Lebanese territory.	This incident does not constitute a violation of Security Council resolution 1701 (2006) or the Blue Line.
	2120	An Israel Defense Forces patrol in Labbunah area directed a searchlight towards Lebanese territory and turned it off the following day, 8 November 2015.	This incident does not constitute a violation of Security Council resolution 1701 (2006) or the Blue Line.
11 November 2015	1045	An Israel Defense Forces patrol comprising two Hummer vehicles and a Defender vehicle arrived in the Udaysah area. Ten soldiers disembarked from the vehicles and pointed a 12.7 mm machine gun mounted on one of the vehicles at the Lebanese Army checkpoint in the area. The patrol left the location at 1115 hours.	This instrument served the patrol for observation only and there was no intention to point a weapon or threaten the Lebanese Army forces. Furthermore, this incident does not constitute a violation of Security Council resolution 1701 (2006).

Date	*Time*	*Alleged nature of violation*	*Response*
17 November 2015	1900	An Israel Defense Forces patrol in Labbunah area directed a searchlight towards Lebanese territory.	This incident does not constitute a violation of Security Council resolution 1701 (2006) or the Blue Line.
21 November 2015	1830		
	2130		
25 November 2015	1700	An Israel Defense Forces patrol in Ayta al-Sha'b area directed a searchlight towards Lebanese territory.	This incident does not constitute a violation of Security Council resolution 1701 (2006) or the Blue Line.
27 November 2015	1300	In the Mount Dov area, opposite UNIFIL observation post OP3, an Israel Defense Forces patrol attempted to abduct the livestock herder Yusuf Zahra. The attempt was unsuccessful, and the herder returned in the direction of Mount Dov with his livestock.	1. For a long period of time, there have been occurrences of Blue Line crossings by civilians in the Mount Dov area; some of them serve Hezbollah in collecting reconnaissance information. These crossings constitute a violation of Security Council resolution 1701 (2006). 2. All of the Israel Defense Forces activity in the area is of a defensive nature and is conducted south of the Blue Line, in Israel's territory only, and does not constitute a violation of Security Council resolution 1701 (2006).

2. Statistical summary of violations committed by Lebanon in 2015, reported by the Israel Defense Forces to the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon

Type of violation	*Quantity*
Sightings of armed individuals in the southern Lebanon area	1 079
Crossing of the Blue Line by Lebanese nationals	589
Reconnaissance patrols by Hezbollah along the Blue Line	653
Attacks emanating from Lebanese territory (Anti-tank missile attack in January, rocket attack in December)	2
Other occurrences (such as pointing of weapons towards Israel Defense Forces; Hezbollah operatives climbing barrels that demarcate the Blue Line; rock-throwing towards Israel Defense Forces/infrastructures)	51
Total	**2 374**